

**Federal Public Service Commission**

**Competitive Examination for Recruitment to the Posts in BS-17**

**under The Federal Government, 2010**

**English Precis and Composition**

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 100

**Q1: Pick the word that is nearly similar in meaning to the capitalized word.**

1) Acrimonous

a) Bitter b) Provocative c) Cheap d) Volatile

2) Calligraphy

a) Computers b) Handwriting c) Blood Pressure d) Brain waves

3) Unequivocal

a) Variable b) Plain c) Unmistakable d) Negligent

4) Demise

a) Conclude b) End c) Affection d) Death

5) Incendiary

a) Happy b) Sneer c) Causing fire d) Jolly

6) Touchstone

a) Remind b) A hall c) at rest d) Criterion

7) Void

a) Emptiness b) Lea c) Anger d) Trick

8) Essay

a) Direct b) Copose c) Attempt d) Suppose

**b) Indicate the most nearly opposite in meaning**

1) Ignoble

a) Lowly b) Vile c) Good d) Noble

2) Melancholy

a) Sorrowful b) Happy c) Forbidden d) Brisk

3) Obliterate

a) Preserve b) Destroy c) Ravage d) Design

4) Ally

a) Alloy b) Foe c) Partner d) Accessory

5) Vulgar

a) Coarse b) Gross c) Exquisite d) Obscene

6) Pretend

a) Sham b) Substantiate c) Feign d) Fabricate

7) Liberty

a) Permission b) License c) Serfdom d) Bound

8) Conscientious

a) Uncorrupt b) Honorable c) Principled d) Profligate

**Q2: Precise**

Of all the characteristics of ordinary human nature envy is the most unfortunate; not only does the envious person wish to inflict misfortune and do so whenever he can with impunity, but he is also himself rendered unhappy by envy. instead of deriving pleausre from what he has, he derives pain

from what others have. if he can, he deprives others of their advantages, which to him is as desirable as as it would be to secure the same advantages himself. if this passion is allowed to run riot it becomes fatal to all excellence, and even the most useful exercise of exceptional skill. why should a medical man go to see his patients in a car when the labourer has to walk to his work? why should the scientific investigator be allowed to spend his time in a warm room when others have to face the inclemency of the elements? why should a man who possesses some rare talent of great importance to the world be saved from the drudgery of his own housework? to such questions envy finds no answer. fortunately, however, there is in human nature a compensating passion, namely that of admiration. whosoever wishes to increase human happiness must wish to increase admiration and to diminish envy. what cure is there for envy? for the saint there is the cure of selflessness, though even in the case of saints envy of other saints is by no means impossible. but, leaving saints out of account, the only cure of envy in the case of ordinary men and women is happiness, and the difficulty is that envy is itself a terrible obstacle to happiness. but the envious man may say: 'what is the good of telling me that the cure of envy is happiness? i cannot find happiness while i continue to feel envy, and you tell me that i cannot cease to be envious until i find happiness.' but real life is never so logical as this. merely to realize the cause of one's own envious feeling is to take a long step towards curing them.

### **Question 3: Comprehension**

And still it moves. the words of Galileo, murmured when the tortures of the Inquisition had driven him to recant the Truth he knew, apply in a new way to our world today. sometimes, in the knowledge of all that has been discovered, all that has been done to make life on the planet happier and more worthy, we may be tempted to settle down to enjoy our heritage. that would, indeed, be the betrayal of our trust.

These men and women of the past have given everything—comfort, time, treasure, peace of mind and body, life itself—that we might live as we do. the challenge to each one of us is to carry on their work for the sake of future generations.

The adventurous human mind must not falter. still must we question the old truths and work for new ones. still must we risk scorn, cynicism, neglect, loneliness, poverty, persecution, if need be. we must shut our ears to easy voice which tells us that human nature will never alter as an excuse for doing nothing to make life more worthy.

Thus will the course of the history of mankind go onward, and the world we know move into a new splendour for those who are yet to be.

Questions:

- 1) What made Galileo recant the Truth he knew?
- 2) What is the heritage being alluded to in the first paragraph?
- 3) what does the 'betrayal of our trust' imply
- 4) Why do we need to question the old truths and work for the new ones?

Explain the words or expressions as highlighted/underlined in the passage.

**Question 4: Write a comprehensive note on any one of the following**

- 1) When flatterers get together, the devil goes to dinner.
- 2) The impossible is often the untried.
- 3) A Civil servant is a public servant
- 4) Internet—a blessing or a bane
- 5) Hope is the buoy of life.

**Question 5: Use Only Five of the following in sentences which illustrate their meaning:**

- 1) Make for
- 2) Yeoman's service
- 3) Discretion is the better part of valour.
- 4) Out of the wood
- 5) A casting vote
- 6) Look down upon

- 7) Iconoclast
- 8) A swan song

**b) Five pairs of words in sentences:**

- 1) Adverse, Averse
- 2) Maize, Maze
- 3) Medal, Meddle
- 4) Imperious, Imperial
- 5) Veracity, Voracity
- 6) Allusion, Illusion
- 7) Ordinance, Ordnance
- 8) willing, Wilful

**Question 6:**

**a) Correct the following sentences**

- 1) This house is built of brick and stone.
- 2) the climate of Pakistan is better than England?
- 3) He swore by God.
- 4) You ought to have regarded him your benefactor.
- 5) My friend is very ill, i hope he will soon die.
- 6) he is waiting for better and promising opportunity.
- 7) When I shall see her I will deliver her your gift.
- 8) Many a sleepless nights she spent.

**b) Change the narration from Indirect to Direct or Direct to Indirect**

- 1) On Monday he said, "My son is coming today."
- 2) they wanted to know where he was going the following week.

- 3) he said, "Did she go yesterday?"
- 4) 'By God', he said, "I do not know her nickname."
- 5) he says that we are to meet him at the station.
- 6) He said, "I don't know the way. ask the old man sitting on the gate."
- 7) My father prayed that i would recover from my illness
- 8) He said, "How will you manage it?"